

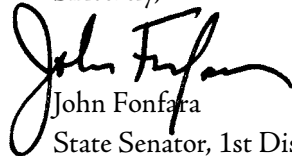
Dear Friends,

Some of the most difficult challenges our seniors face are paying for their prescription drugs and affording the rising cost of heating their home through our Connecticut winters. With energy prices expected to increase dramatically this winter, it will be more difficult than ever before to afford those sky-rocketing heating costs. With this in mind, I want to share with you some information to assist seniors—especially low-income seniors—in finding out if they are eligible for programs to help with the cost of prescription drugs and energy assistance programs.

I hope that the information, phone numbers and Web sites listed on the other side of this mailing are useful in finding the information you need to enroll in any programs for which you, or seniors you know, may be eligible.

Thank you for the honor of serving as your state Senator.

Sincerely,


John Fonfara
State Senator, 1st District



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PRESCRIPTION DRUG ASSISTANCE

Medicare Part D

Answers to your questions

Who is eligible?

People who have Medicare Part A or B will be eligible for Medicare drug coverage. They can enroll in any of the Part D plans that serve the area in which they live.

When do you enroll?

In the first year of the program, the enrollment period is November 15, 2005–May 15, 2006. In future years, you can enroll from November 15th to December 31st annually. In 2006 only, you can change drug plans until May 15th. After that, you must keep your plan until the next open enrollment period begins.

Will Part D drug plans differ?

Yes. Each drug plan can set and change its own formulary as long as its coverage is considered at least equivalent to the standard benefit.

Can I keep ConnPACE coverage?

ConnPACE participants must enroll in a Part D plan, pay the annual ConnPACE \$30 registration fee and prescription co-payments. ConnPACE will cover the Part D monthly premiums and drugs to the same extent as otherwise covered during the federal deductible period, as well as covering the gap in the “standard benefit.”

Is there help for people with low income?

A subsidy is available for people with an income up to 135% of the Federal Poverty Level (approximately \$12,900 for an individual and \$17,320 for a couple) and assets of not more than \$7,500 per individual or \$12,000 per couple.

A partial subsidy is available for people with incomes up to 150% of the FPL and assets of not more than \$11,500 per individual or \$23,000 per couple.

Where can I get help understanding and enrolling in Part D?

Contact the CHOICES program at the Elderly Services Division of the Department of Social Services: 1-800-994-9422 or on the web at www.ctelderlyservices.state.ct.us/PubsFrm.htm

Useful phone numbers and Web sites

ConnPACE

1-800-423-5026

www.connpace.com

Medicare

1-800-Medicare (633-4227)

www.medicare.gov

2-1-1 Infoline

Dial 2-1-1

24-hour/7-day information and referral services

Partnership for Prescription Assistance

1-888-4PPA-NOW (1-800-477-2669)

www.pparx.org

Please call the above number to see if you qualify for free or reduced price prescription drug assistance. I will be providing you with more information on this program soon.

Energy Assistance

The Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) provides assistance to low-income households to help with heating costs.

For more information contact the Department of Social Services at

1-800-842-1132.